1 84 F

T

CLASCIFICATION RESTRICTED
CENTRAL SECURITY THEORIGINAL OF THE CONTRAL SECURITY THEORIGINAL OF THE CONTRAL OF TH

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

Daily newspaper

SUBJECT

Political - Rebotage

DATE OF INFORMATION

HOW PUBLISHED Recommis - Coal mining

DATE DIST. 28 Aug 1952

1952

WHERE

PUBLISHED

Frague

Czech

NO. OF PAGES 2

PUBLISHED P

11 Jul 1952

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

REPORT NO.

THE DOCYTIC GOTTHER REPORTATION SPECTICS THE PATHOPAL DUPPER OF THE SUITZE STATES WITHIN THE STABLES OF ESTIMATES AT SO A. C. C. STARS FLAT AS ATTRACE. ITT PRICEIDISTONS OF THE SPECIAL TOPS OF THE SPECIAL T

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

一年のことのできるのでは、 ないのでは、 これのでは、 できるのできるのできる。

Rude Pravo.

PROSECUTION OF ALLEGED COAL-MINE SABOTEURS AT OSTRAVA

The following article reports one of a series of trials of alleged satoteurs in the important Ostrava-Karvinna coal region, where several accidents and disasters reportedly occurred toward the end of 1051 and the beginning of 1052. The several accidents are alleged and of loss of life was not announced.

On Thursday, 10 July 1952, the State Court in Ostrava, Dr Jiri Kepale, presiding, tried a group of nine persons accused of sabotage in the coal industry. The prosecution's case was presented by the Deputy State Prosecutor, Emil Eichler. During the first day of the hearing, delegates from all coal regions of Czechoslovakia were present, as were technicians, outstanding workers, recipients of orders and decorations, and workers from enterprises in Ostrava Kraj.

The accused were Dr Engr Vaclav Zalud, onetime chairman of the Regional Mining Office in Ostrava; Engr Josef Herel, inspector in the Ostrava-Karvinna mines; Engr Miment Pavlu, onetime chief engineer of the Doubrava mine (these three used to belong to Lauman's rightist group and were reared in the Agrarian Party); Ludvik Polak, onetime chairman of the Doubrava Mine Enterprise Council; Alois Carbol, chief of the ventilation service of the same mine; and Jozef Golka, laboratory technician. The Barbora mine was represented by the defendants Alfons Petras, mining engineer, Emerich Lazarsky, technician, and Jozef Stoszek, chief of the ventilation service.

The prosecution claimed that this group had caused serious mining accidents which cost lives and millions of crowns' worth of damage through criminal negligence. Documentary as well as eyewitness testimony was presented by the prosecution. The indictments, which were read in the first day of the hearing, singled out three of the defendants as the main criminals. These were Engineers Zalud, Harel, and Pavlu.

- 7 .

CLASSIFICATION EXSTRICTED

ETATE X MMY X REFE DESTRIBUTION

ARMY X AUR X FB | DESTRIBUTION

RESTRICTED

Zalud, as the chairman of the Regional Mining Office, practiced continuing sabotage. One of his most important tasks was the supervision of safety measwres in the various mines under his jurisdiction. He consistently violated safety regulations, held up the flow of reports from enterprise administrations and neglected to see that known dangers were removed. In one instance, when he was well aware of the dangerous nature of working conditions in the Hubert pit of the Doubrava mine, he gave permission to resume operations in this pit, after consultations with defendants herel and Pavlu. Consequently, there was an explosion in this shaft on 12 February 1952, which cost the death of some miners. A

The accused, in his capacity as chairman of the Regional Mining Office, condusted an invostigation of the causes of the explosion in such a way that those who were actually to blame were not punished. Other members of this gang of suboteurs were Herel, Pavlu, Polek, Carbol, and Golka, who, with the full knowledge of Zalud, falsified books and entries reporting the existance of methane gas and thus clearly tried to hide the evidence of their own guilt in the disaster.

part of the mine containing large quantities of coal was demolished and rendered

inoperable for a considerable time.

Zalud attempted to proceed in this manner in other cases also. He is responsible for causing the conditions in the Barbor mine which led to the destructive fire there on 17 December 1951. In this incident his main accomplices were Alfons Petras and Emerich Lazarsky, who were both criminally negligent in carrying out their dubies and were very irresponsible.

In one of the shafts of the Barbora mine there was a considerable odor, which is noticed as a rule when a fire is imminent. In order to avoid a pit fire, Zalud decided that the particular section was to be walled in. Although he was aware of the danger, he failed to set a time limit for the execution of this safety measure. He tried to assure the leading workers of the mine that the danger was not acute. This is why the defendant Petras merely issued the order for the building of the wall and did not follow up on its execution or

Similarly, Stoszak, the chief of the ventilation service in the Barbora mine, was negligent when he refused to test the air in the danger area, and after the fire had started, he criminally took his time in detecting the center of the blaze. Stoszek failed to inform the management of the mine and the commission of the Mining Office of the condition in the danger zone and thus was guilty of causing the blaze to spread so that it got out of control.

Following the reading of the above indictments, several of the defendants were cross-examined by the prosecution. Others will be heard on Friday, 11 July 1952. During the cross examination, the prosecution was successful in proving some of the finer points of the indictments, which should lead to the definite conviction of the defendants. Some confessions were obtained.

- E T D -

- 2 -

all desirabilities and desirabilities and an analysis.

RESTRICTED

STAT

